

Appl. No. : 10/690,975
Filed : October 22, 2003

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the April 19, 2005 Office Action. Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12 are amended, Claims 2, 13, and 14 are cancelled without prejudice, Claims 3-5 and 8-11 remain as originally filed, and Claims 15-21 are newly added. Thus, Claims 1, 3-12, and 15-21 are presented for further consideration. Please enter the amendments and reconsider the claims in view of the following remarks.

Comments on Allowable Subject Matter

In the April 19, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 2, 6, 7, and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As described herein, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12. Claim 1 has been amended to be in independent form and to include all of the limitations of Claim 2. Claims 6, 7, and 12 have been amended to be in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12 and pass these claims to allowance.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 13, and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the April 19, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 13, and 14 as anticipated by Otsubo *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,000) ("Otsubo") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). As described above, amended Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Each of Claims 3-5, 8, and 9 depends from amended Claim 1, and Claim 10 depends from Claim 9. Therefore, each of Claims 3-5 and 8-10 includes all the limitations of amended Claim 1 as well as other limitations of particular utility. Applicants have cancelled Claims 13 and 14 without prejudice. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-10 and pass these claims to allowance.

Response to Rejection of Claim 11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the April 19, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claim 11 as being unpatentable over Otsubo in view of Matthews *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,986,234) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As described above, amended Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claim 11 depends from Claim 10, which depends from Claim 9, which depends from amended Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 11 includes all the limitations of amended Claim 1 as well as other limitations of

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particular utility. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 11 and pass Claim 11 to allowance.

Comments on New Claims 15-21

Claims 15-21 have been newly added. Applicants submit that new Claims 15-21 do not add new matter. Each of Claims 15-19 depends from amended Claim 6, Claim 20 depends from Claim 19, and Claim 21 depends from Claim 20. Therefore, each of Claims 15-21 includes all the limitations of amended Claim 6 as well as other limitations of particular utility. As described above, amended Claim 6 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner pass Claims 15-21 to allowance.

Summary

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 3-12, and 15-21 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request such action.

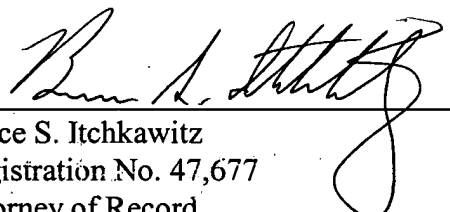
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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